

FEBRUARY 2025



Official Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church, Marshfield, WI

Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Living Christ's Call for Peace

FROM PASTOR HEATHER BROWN

Matthew 5:9

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"

Dear Friends in Christ,

In these past weeks I have been dismayed by the violent conflicts taking place around the world. It seems that images of war and bloodshed from the Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, the Sudan, the Congo and elsewhere loom large in the media. And here in the USA, I am weary of the gun violence that plagues our communities. I long for destruction and heartache to end so that children, families, and all others can feel safe and free from fear.

In 1995, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released a social statement called "For Peace in God's World." In recent years, people have taken a renewed interest in this document and the wisdom it offers as to how Christians can work toward global peace.

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In the social statement, “For Peace in God’s World,” it reads: We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America share with the Church of Jesus Christ in all times and places the calling to be peacemakers. In the liturgy of Holy Communion we pray ‘for the peace of the whole world,’ asking, ‘Lord, have mercy.’ Our petition unites faith in the Triune God with our world’s sufferings and hopes....The basis of the Church’s peace-calling is in God’s final peace, the peace of God’s eternal reign. That calling is to proclaim the Gospel of God’s final peace and to work for earthly peace.

Indeed, throughout the Scriptures we see that God’s ultimate desire is that peace prevail on the earth. This is the example Jesus Christ has given us:

- ✦ Jesus taught love for one’s enemies;
- ✦ he reached out to those who were oppressed, downtrodden, and rejected;
- ✦ he prayed for his enemies while himself being rejected on the cross;
- ✦ above all, through Jesus’ violent death, God redeemed the world, “for...while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son” (Romans 5:10).

How can we as Christians promote the peace of Christ in our world? The social statement spells it out quite clearly: Where the Church lives in unity, overcoming divisions and welcoming the stranger and outcast, the Church contributes to earthly peace. Where the followers of Jesus refuse to repay evil with evil but turn the other cheek and go the extra mile (Matthew 5:38-42), where in their life together Christians’ creative, nonviolent responses to hostile acts open up possibilities for reconciliation, the Church contributes to earthly peace. Where churches in different countries work in solidarity for human dignity, the Church contributes to earthly peace. Peace in the community of faith serves by example the ministry and message of reconciliation entrusted to the Church for the world (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

May we all heed the words of Jesus’s Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12): “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” And as Edwin Markham so wisely stated, “We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; now let us commit it to life.”

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus Christ, help us to be expressions of your love in the world, both as individual members of your body and as your whole body, the Church. Empower us to support one another as we seek to build peace. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Heather

GLOW

Embracing the New Year: Faith, Fellowship & Fresh Beginnings

FROM CO-DIRECTORS
JUSTIN POLZIN & BRIANNE THOMPSON

One month into 2025 already! January brought its challenges with frigid weather, including temperatures dropping to -30 degrees with windchill. Due to this, we made the decision to cancel Sunday GLOW classes on Jan. 19th for safety reasons. We recognize the importance of improving our communication during such weather events and apologize for any delays in sharing updates. Thank you for your understanding as we work to enhance this process moving forward.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

GLOW Education Updates:

Our Pre-K through 5th-grade students are already busy preparing for their upcoming concerts, scheduled for later this year. In addition to rehearsals, students are diving back into their lesson plans and memory work. Reminder to parents: Please help your children complete their memory work by the end of April.

Confirmation Updates:

Students in grades 6-8 had a wonderful Christmas celebration at Cheryl Ashbeck's home, enjoying food, games, and gifts with their mentors. Classes have resumed, and 8th graders are hard at work preparing for their confirmation.

Reminder for parents: We're closing in on the number of available services for completing sermon notes. Be sure to check in with your students on their progress.



Pictures from Firefighters receiving Check from GLOW.



Happy

BIRTHDAY



BIRTHDAYS:

EVE ANDERSON – 02/04
CIERA SCHULZE – 02/07

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS:

ALEXIS RHODES – 02/14



GLOW

UPCOMING EVENTS



Pictures from Mentor/Mentee Christmas Party in January.

Adult Education Updates:

Our Adult Education group meets after Sunday services when special events are not scheduled. We've recently begun a study of Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Revelation. The book is structured into 12 chapters, and we aim to finish within 12-15 weeks, depending on discussions.

Topics we've explored include:

- "Your First Love"
- "Standing for Truth"
- "The Defeat of Evil"
- "An Eternal Dwelling"

We welcome anyone interested in discussing these thought-provoking subjects to join us after services. For those who can't attend, we are happy to provide written summaries of our discussions in future newsletters.

Looking Ahead: February Highlights

GLOW Education:

February 16th: GLOW Rehearsal During the Annual Meeting

Students will rehearse for the Café of Faith event while parents and teachers attend the meeting. Questions? Reach out to us!

February 23rd: Café of Faith

Join us for a special breakfast event! GLOW and Confirmation students will serve breakfast during this time of fellowship. Parents, Council, and Staff—come hungry and ready to connect!

February 28th: Kids Night Out

We're excited to announce Kids Night Out! Details will be shared soon, but we encourage each student to bring a friend for an evening of fun, fellowship, and activities they won't want to miss.

Confirmation Updates:

- February 28th: 6th-Grade Overnight Retreat
- 8th-grade students will begin writing the Lord's Prayer in their own words and delve deeper into the church's mission and ministry teams in the coming months. 🕯️

FEBRUARY 23RD

GLOW CAFE

FEBRUARY 28TH

GLOW KIDS NIGHT OUT
6th GRADE LOCK IN



FLY on Sunday Morning

We are next Gathering on Sunday, February 2 and February 9 in the Youth Room in the lower level at church. Access is through the north stairway by the Entrance and then straight ahead through the room with the foosball table. We will gather from 10 to 11 AM. Youth in Grades 9 through 12 are invited to join us. In January we talked about hope and friendship and how they both impact us as teenagers of faith.



Mission Trip 2025

We are excited to announce that FLY will be heading to New York for our mission trip in 2025. The trip is scheduled for approximately July 19-26. We are looking forward to serving our brothers and sisters in need in “the Big Apple”.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🔥 FEB. 2ND - FLY GROUP MEETING
10 AM
- 🔥 FEB. 9TH - FLY GROUP MEETING
10 AM



Blessing of Young Drivers

As part of our Milestones Ministry program, we recently celebrated with a special blessing and prayer for Hannah, Trevin and Mallory as new young drivers. They also received a very special Jesus key to keep with their car keys as a reminder of who they are and whose they are whenever they are behind the wheel. Congratulations from Faith Lutheran Youth!

Little Free Pantry (LFP)

Our Little Free Pantry continues to thrive and we continue to see more people benefit from the Pantry. As winter continues, it becomes more challenging to find food when needed.

We encourage our congregation to give what they can by placing unexpired food, hygiene items, or paper items inside the LFP. Focus on items you would want to receive and buy duplicates of what your household uses. No gift is too small. Just know that we now in a time of freezing temperatures which can be hard on some products, especially liquids (our Pantry is not insulated or heated). 🌧️



Mission Team Updates

Facilities Management Team

CHAIR PAM JOHNSON

Facility Highlights:

- The hallway by the Sanctuary got a new light switch as the other one did not always want to work. One of the light fixtures needed new ballasts so Mueller Electric was able to fix it at the same time.
- One of the boilers was having a lot of issues, House of Heating provided the cost for a new one and if we had to get two at the same time or can just replace one. They said we could just replace one. Since the congregation was so giving with the Capital Improvement Fund Raiser, we were able to purchase a new boiler for \$11,553 with the money raised. Thank you.
- Lisa Helstien donated a framed picture of the tree that was planted at Wildwood Park for the 70th Anniversary.
- The frig that is in the Community Room somehow got unplugged and not plugged back in. The FLY lost everything that had been stored in it. Facility is looking into what went wrong.

Treasurer's Report

FROM TREASURER KENT MUELLER

General giving for December was \$37,765, compared to \$56,830 for 2023 and \$34,758 for 2022. The 2024 general giving total was \$11,008 more than the budgeted general giving. 2024 total income is \$61,552 higher than expenses. Total income is higher than budget by \$47,030, expenses are lower than budget by \$22,821, and interest earnings are higher than budget by \$1,979, resulting in net income that is \$71,829 higher than budgeted for 2024.

Finance Team

INTERIM CHAIR ALICIA HEINRICH

Highlights

- The Refugee monies stored in the Care Fund will remain until the end of the year to see if a family from Haiti will be in need.
- All fund accounts will be moving to Forward Bank from Partners Bank.
- All contribution statements have been both mailed and emailed out if not picked up in the Gathering Area.
- A new Audit Checklist was created for the Audit Committee.
- A new policy will be drafted and recommended to council for the Capital Improvement Fund.

Worship & Music Team

CHAIR LINDA NELSON-SCHREIBER

Worship and Music have determined that the Lenten Service time will be 5:15 PM

and Soup Supper to follow at 6:00 PM. Easter Sunday will be at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Volunteer Sign up at Usher Table.

Kitchen Committee Recap

CO-COORDINATORS JUDY RHODES
& JOYCE CEASAR



On Sunday, 1/26/25, the Kitchen Restoration Committee held an open house after the 9:00 service to celebrate the completion of the kitchen restoration project. The Kitchen Coordinator shared greetings and introduced committee members and volunteers, extending a personal invitation to GLOW, Confirmation, and FLY participants and their parents.

Refreshments, provided by Piece Corps and Committee members, were served while Piece Corps volunteers demonstrated their quilting work. Attendees toured the updated kitchen areas, featuring newly painted walls, refurbished cupboards and sink framing, new vinyl tile flooring, base edging, an exhaust fan extension, and newly crafted window treatments.

Over 50 members attended, raising \$68.50 for Piece Corps. Additionally, FLC women presented a \$100 check to honor Ardith Hendrickson's contribution of the new kitchen curtains. This project, fully funded through generous donations of time, talent, and money, ensures many years of sharing the Spirit together.

Thank you for your overwhelming support!
The Kitchen Committee

Communication Team

INTERIM CHAIR ALICIA HEINRICH

Highlights

- A new interactive Calendar has been added to the website. This allows you to look back and forward for events. You may click on an event for more information and email the main contact or add to your calendar.
- Working on Livestream Issues: The livestream has been intermittent including the audio cutting in and out and then just going black during the month of January. The team has been troubleshooting multiple options. Each week in February will be getting better. Thank you for your patience.

Faith in Action Team

CHAIR TREVA TISDELL

Our Fourth Annual Egg Hunt will be held on April 6th, starting at 11:00 am to 12:30 and will be held in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event contact Michelle Rhodes, Justin Polzin or Treva Tisdell.

The next Faith in Action meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20th at 6:00 pm. Whether you would like to check out our team or would like to help with the planning of an event, we welcome you to join us.





SAVE THE DATE Marshfield Area EMPTY BOWLS

Saturday, March 8, 2025
11:00 - 2:00PM
NEW LOCATION - EAGLES CLUB
1104 South Oak Avenue
Marshfield, WI 54449

Empty Bowls is a fund raiser
for Soup Or Socks

SIGN MESSAGES From January



PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers: (Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

Sue Vrana's mother, Shirley; Maxine Morgan's friends; Gary & Jeanette Oswald's family; Jan Fink; Carol Skaden's sister, Cathy; Alice Abbott; Jim Legge; Diane Herron; Dave & Diane Herron's niece, Mia; Tom & Darlene Krake.

Our sympathies go out to families of Gary & Jeanette Oswald on the death of their son and the family of Lorraine Rogers who passed away on Jan. 25th, 2025.

SERVICE TIME

IN-PERSON 9:00 AM

WAYS TO WATCH

Live-streaming on our APP, Facebook & YouTube.
Cable Access 989 Broadcast Times:

Sunday at 12 Noon
Monday at 11:30 AM
Friday at 11 AM

Always access on App, Facebook & YouTube.



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Office Hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:30 AM-2:30 PM
Service Time: Sundays 9:00 AM





Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00 WORSHIP 10:00 GLOW/FLY/AD ED 10:00 Social Concerns/ Green Meeting	3 Office Closed 7:00 AI-Anon	4 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	5 12:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Communications Mtg 6:00 NA Meeting in CR 6:30 Choir Practice	6 8:30 Piece Corps 8:30 Finance Team Mtg 6:30 Ed & Fam Team Mtg 7:00 Scout Troop 345	7 Office & Building CLOSED	8 4:00 FIA Sleigh Ride at Stichert's
9 9:00 WORSHIP / CHOIR 10:00 GLOW/FLY/AD ED 10:15 W&M Meeting 6:00 Exec. Council Meeting	10 Office Closed 6:30 Facility Team Mtg 7:00 AI-Anon	11 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	12 5:00 Faith Alive Bible Study 6:00 NA Meeting in CR 6:30 Choir Practice	13 8:30 Piece Corps	14 <i>happy Valentine's day</i> Office & Building	15 9:00 Praise Band Practice
16 2nd & 3rd Spotlight 9:00 WORSHIP / PRAISE BAND 10:00 GLOW/ADULT ED 10:15 ANNUAL MEETING	17 Office Closed 7:00 AI-Anon	18 1:00 Altrusa 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	19 9:00 Miriam Circle 9:00 Elizabeth Circle 12:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 Youth Advisory Team 6:00 NA Meeting in CR 6:30 Choir Practice	20 8:30 Piece Corps NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00 Faith In Action Mtg 7:00 Scout Troop 345	21 Office & Building CLOSED	22
23 W/ELCA ThankOffering 9:00 WORSHIP / CHOIR 10:00 GLOW CAFÉ /AD ED	24 Office Closed 7:00 Ruth Circle at MM 7:00 AI-Anon	25 6:00 NAMI Meeting 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	26 6:00 NA Meeting in CR 6:30 Choir Practice	27 8:30 Piece Corps	28 Office & Building CLOSED 5:30 Kids Night Out 6th Grade Lock-In	